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cont.

- f) from 0% to about 6% tackifier with softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane
- g) from 0% to about 25% NaCMC with degree of substitution above 1.0
- h) from 0% to about 6% powdered cellulose

wherein the probe tack force in grams is in the range of 400-750, saline absorbency is in the range of about 500-5000 g/m²/d, and tensile strength is in the range of about 500-3500 g/cm². -

REMARKS

Prior to the payment of the Issue Fee for this application, it was determined that the low softening point tackifier may be properly defined as having a softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane. Independent claims 1, 16 and 20 were accordingly amended to reflect this description. Support for this language can be found on page 2, last 2 lines, through page 3, line 2; page 6, last 2 lines and Table 6, column titled "Low Softening Point Tackifier".

There are now 23 claims pending in this application having three independent claims numbers 1, 16 and 20.

There is no teaching in the references cited by the Examiner of an adhesive composition as claimed in the independent claims having the properties recited.

Allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Three Times Amended) A pressure sensitive hydrocolloid adhesive for medical use comprising the following composition by percentage weight:

- a) from about 2% to about 10% ethylene propylene rubber
- b) from about 9.5% to about 16% styrenic block copolymer
- c) from about 24% to about 33% tackifying resin [having a softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane]
- d) from 0% up to .5% anti-oxidant
- e) from about 15% to about 35% NaCMC (Low DS)
- f) from about 5% to about 20% pectin
- g) from 0% to about 6% tackifier with [low] softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane
- h) from about 3% to about 12% plasticizer
- i) from 0% to about 25% NaCMC (high DS)
- j) from 0% to about 6% powdered cellulose

wherein the probe tack force in grams is in the range of 400-750, saline absorbency is in the range of about 500-5000 g/m²/d, and tensile strength is in the range of about 500-3500 g/cm².

16. (Three Times Amended) A pressure sensitive hydrocolloid adhesive for medical use comprising the following composition by percentage weight:

- a) from about 2% to about 20% ethylene propylene rubber
- b) from about 2% to about 16% styrenic block copolymer
- c) from about 14% to about 33% tackifying resin [having a softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane]
- d) from 0% to about 0.5% anti-oxidant
- e) from about 10% to about 35% NaCMC with degree of substitution below 1.0
- f) from 0% to about 30.5% pectin
- g) from about 3% to about 12% plasticizer
- h) from 0% to about 6% tackifier with softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane
- i) from 0% to about 25% NaCMC with degree of substitution above 1.0
- j) from 0% to about 6% powdered cellulose

wherein the probe tack force in grams is in the range of 400-750, saline absorbency is in the range of about 500-5000 g/m²/d, and tensile strength is in the range of about 500-3500 g/cm².

20. (Three Times Amended) A pressure sensitive hydrocolloid adhesive for medical use comprising the following composition by percentage weight:

- a) from about 11.5% to about 36% of a hydrocolloid blend of ethylene propylene rubber and styrenic block copolymer
- b) from about 24% to about 39% tackifying resin [having a softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane]
- c) from 0% to about 0.5% anti-oxidant
- d) from about 20% to about 52% absorbent powder selected from the group consisting of NaCMC pectin, powdered cellulose, pregelatinized starch, powdered fillers, fibers, absorbents, and super absorbents
- e) from about 3% to about 12% plasticizer
- f) from 0% to about 6% tackifier with softening point below about 37°C comprising polyvinylcyclohexane
- g) from 0% to about 25% NaCMC with degree of substitution above 1.0
- h) from 0% to about 6% powdered cellulose

wherein the probe tack force in grams is in the range of 400-750, saline absorbency is in the range of about 500-5000 g/m²/d, and tensile strength is in the range of about 500-3500 g/cm².